

where the once countless hosts of breeding water birds have been practically exterminated.

Mr. Bickerton's excellent photographs are reproduced in half-tones of high quality which are mounted upon dark brown paper making a very effective series of illustrations.— W. S.

Shelley's 'Birds of Africa.'¹— The publication of this important work has been resumed after an interval of six years. Soon after the appearance of the first part of Volume V the author suffered a stroke of paralysis which resulted in his death in 1910. Arrangements were then made with Mr. W. L. Sclater to continue the undertaking and under his able direction it is hoped to bring it to an early completion.

The present volume is mainly edited from manuscripts already prepared by Capt. Shelley and covers the Shrike-like birds *Dicruridæ*, *Vangidæ*, *Campophagidæ*, *Laniidæ* and *Prionopidæ*.

Two hundred and nine species are included, some of which have several subspecies. Eight colored plates similar in style to those of previous parts illustrate the volume.— W. S.

Horsbrugh and Davies on The Game-Birds and Water-Fowl of South Africa.²— Part 3 of this excellent work is now before us comprising the remainder of the Gallinaceous birds, mainly Guinea-Fowls; the Sandgrouse, Pigeons and some of the Anatidæ. The plates, sixteen in number, are fully up to the standard of the previous parts.

Major Horsbrugh finds that contrary to the statements of some authors the Common Guinea-Fowl of South Africa breeds readily in captivity and crosses freely with the domestic birds.— W. S.

Thayer's Concealing Coloration, an Answer to Theodore Roosevelt.³— Mr. Thayer here defends his views against the criticism of Col. Roosevelt published in the American Museum Bulletin⁴ a year ago. He emphasizes the inconspicuousness of white at night, and reiterates several of the statements set forth in his book, which he claims his critics have entirely failed to understand. Those interested in this controversy should read Mr. Thayer's paper in full.— W. S.

¹ The Birds of Africa, comprising all the species which occur in the Ethiopian Region. By G. E. Shelley, F. Z. S., F. R. G. S., &c. Completed and Edited by W. L. Sclater, M. A., F. Z. S. Vol. V, Pt. II. London: Henry Sotheran & Co. 1912. Roy 8vo., pp. 165-502, plates L-LVII.

² The Game-Birds and Water-Fowl of South Africa. By Major Boyd Horsbrugh and Sergeant C. G. Davies. London: Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, W. C. Part 3. September 30, 1912.

³ Concealing Coloration, an Answer to Theodore Roosevelt. By Abbott H. Thayer. Bulletin American Museum Nat. Hist., Vol. XXXI, pp. 313-321. New York, September 14, 1912.

⁴ Vol. XXX, pp. 119-231.